

HOUSE BILL 3112  
By Halteman Harwel

AN ACT to enact the "Education Edge Bill of Rights".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE:

SECTION 1. This act shall be known, and may be cited, as the "Education Edge Bill of Rights".

SECTION 2. As used in this act, unless the context clearly requires otherwise:

1) "Career cluster" means a coherent sequence of courses or field of study that prepares a student for a first job and that –

(A) integrates academic and occupational learning, integrates school-based and work-based learning, establishes linkages between secondary schools and post-secondary educational institutions;

(B) prepares the student for employment in a broad occupational cluster or industry sector;

(C) typically includes at least two (2) years of secondary education and at least one (1) or two (2) years of post-secondary education;

(D) provides the students, to the extent practicable, with strong experience in and understanding of all aspects of the industry the students are planning to enter;

(E) results in the award of –

(i) a high school diploma or its equivalent, such as –

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- (I) a general equivalency diploma; or
- (II) an alternative diploma or certificate for students with disabilities for whom such alternative diploma or certificate is appropriate.
- (ii) a certificate or diploma recognizing successful completion of one (1) or two (2) years of post-secondary education (if appropriate); and
- (iii) a skill certificate; and

(F) may lead to further education and training, such as entry into a registered apprenticeship program, or may lead to admission to a 2- or 4-year college or university.

(2) “Career guidance counselor” means a person employed by the lead education agency whose function is to advise or consult with students and/or a student’s parent or other legal guardian with respect to occupations that are available to or that are suitable to the student’s interests, desires or abilities.

(3) “Labor market projection data” means any information, analysis, or compilation that projects or estimates the future global, national, state or local needs for workers or employees in any profession, industry or market.

(4) “Skills assessment” means any test whose purpose is to evaluate a person’s aptitude for, interest in, or ability to function in a particular industry, profession, job, career or work.

(5) “Work-based learning experience” means the work-based learning component of the education edge program which includes:

- (A) work experience;
- (B) a planned program of job training and work experiences (including training related to pre-employment and employment skills to be mastered at

progressively higher levels) that are coordinated with learning in the school-based learning component described in section 6112 of this title and are relevant to the career majors of students and lead to the award of skill certificates;

(C) workplace monitoring;

(D) instruction in general workplace competencies, including instruction and activities related to developing positive work attitudes, and employability and participative skills; and

(E) broad instruction, to the extent practicable, in all aspects of the industry.

SECTION 3. The following rights shall pertain to students with respect to Education Edge:

(1) No student shall be required to participate in Education Edge and every student who participates in Education Edge shall have the right to discontinue that student's participation at the end of any grading period.

(2) No student shall be required to designate a career cluster and any student designating a career cluster shall have the right to change his or her career cluster designation at the end of any grading period.

(3) No student shall be required to test for or obtain any certificate indicating successful completion of a career cluster for the purpose of graduating or obtaining a diploma.

(4) No student shall be required to take a skills assessment test.

(5) Any student who wants to declare or designate a career cluster shall have the right to declare or designate any cluster the student chooses and neither labor market projection data nor skill assessment results shall be used to prohibit a student from designating any career cluster.

(6) Every student who declares or designates a career cluster shall have the right, at least annually, to consult with a career guidance counselor.

(7) Every career cluster shall be available to every student at every school and no student shall be disadvantaged in pursuing completion of a career cluster because of the particular school the student attends.

(8) No student shall be required to participate in a work-based learning experience in order to participate in Education Edge or for the purpose of graduating or obtaining a diploma.

SECTION 4. Each year, each superintendent shall provide to each student or to the parent or legal guardian of each student a written statement setting forth the rights set forth in Section 3 prior to the time established by the local education agency for declaring or designating a career cluster.

SECTION 5. This act shall take effect upon becoming a law, the public welfare requiring it.